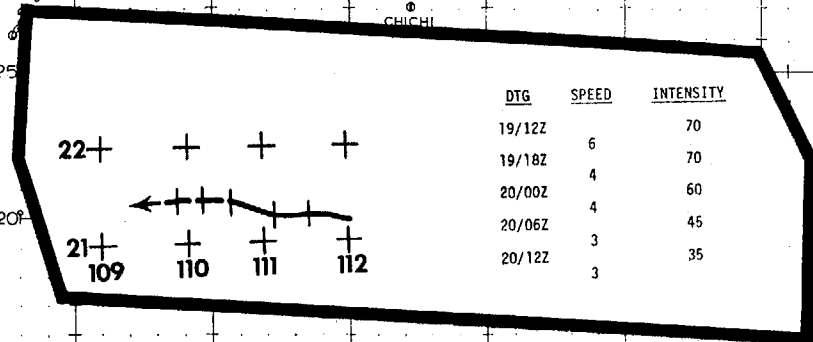
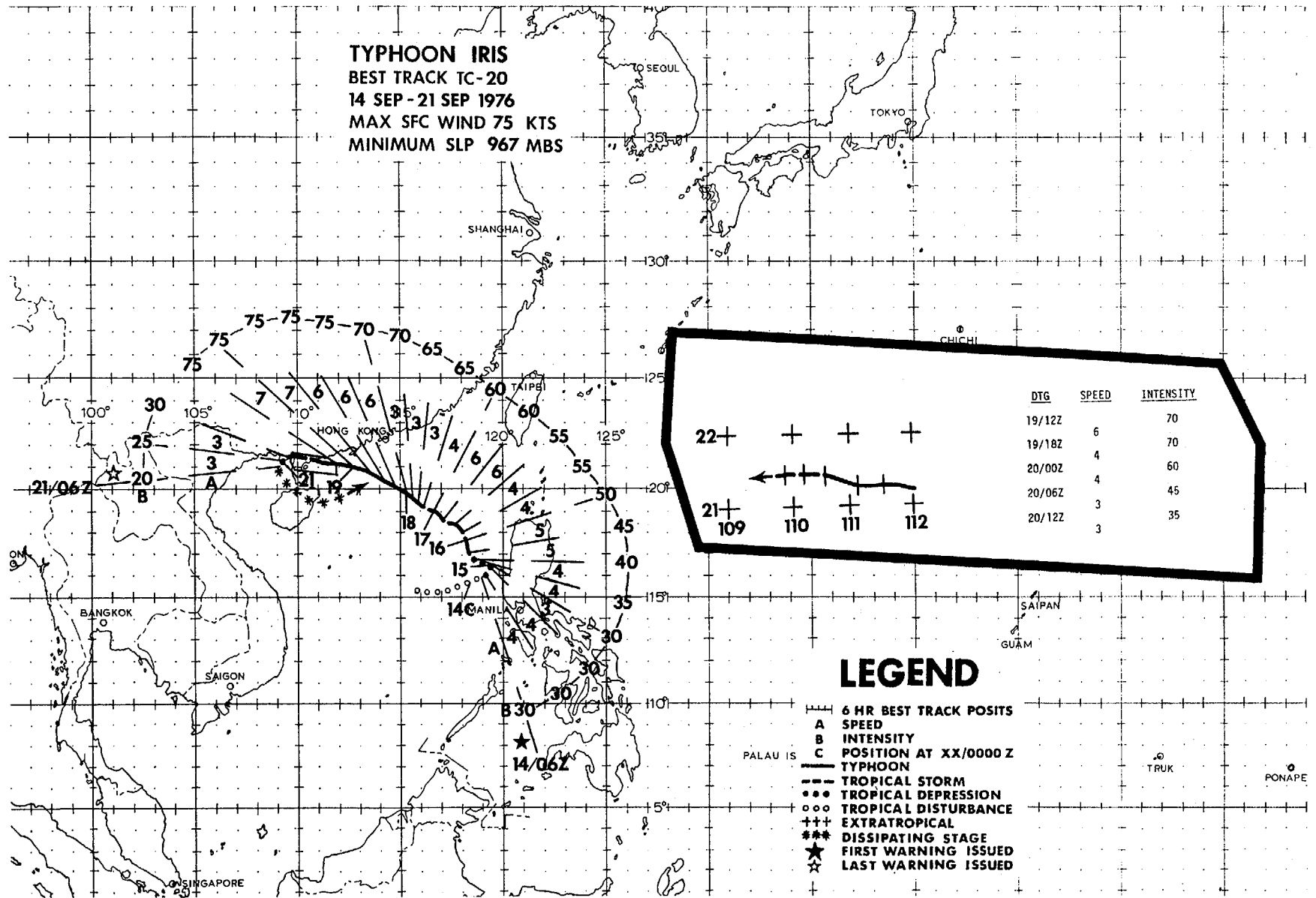


TYPHOON IRIS
BEST TRACK TC-20
14 SEP-21 SEP 1976
MAX SFC WIND 75 KTS
MINIMUM SLP 967 MBS



DTG	SPEED	INTENSITY
19/12Z	6	70
19/18Z	4	70
20/00Z	4	60
20/06Z	3	45
20/12Z	3	35

LEGEND

- 6 HR BEST TRACK POSITS
- A SPEED
- B INTENSITY
- C POSITION AT XX/0000 Z
- TYPHOON
- TROPICAL STORM
- ... TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- ooo TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
- +++ EXTRATROPICAL
- *** DISSIPATING STAGE
- ★ FIRST WARNING ISSUED
- ☆ LAST WARNING ISSUED

On the 13th of September satellites gave the first indications of what was to become the only typhoon of the year to originate in the South China Sea. At 0140Z on the 14th a tropical cyclone formation alert was issued for an area west of Manila, and at 0600Z the first warning on TD 20 was issued.

During this period the synoptic situation was characterized by low pressure over Southeast Asia and an enhanced southwest monsoon over the southern South China Sea. At the mid-tropospheric level short wave troughs were passing from west to east well north of the storm. With a lack of significant steering flow TD 20 began to drift slowly northward. By 0600Z on the 15th satellite and synoptic data indicated some intensification, and the tropical depression was upgraded to Tropical Storm Iris (Fig. 4-40).

By the evening of the 16th, a weak mid-tropospheric ridge had begun to build north of Iris causing the storm to turn northwestward toward southern China. An upper tropospheric trough northwest of Iris enhanced outflow to the north, allowing the system to intensify to typhoon intensity by 0600Z on the 17th. Aircraft reconnaissance at 0420Z observed typhoon strength surface winds 40 nm southeast of the storm center and recorded a central pressure of 983 mb. At 1200Z Pratas Island (59981) recorded winds of 40 kt and a sea level pressure of 997.3 mb.

Three hours later, Iris with maximum winds of 75 kt passed 90 nm south-southwest of the island. At 2100Z Pratas recorded a minimum sea level pressure of 997.1 mb and winds of 33 kt. As Iris continued toward the south-eastern coast of Asia it became further influenced by the subtropical ridge to the north, the typhoon turned more westward and accelerated to 7 kt (Fig. 4-41). At 0600Z on the 19th Iris, still maintaining 75 kt winds, passed 35 nm south of Shan-Ch'uan-Tao (59673) where the station reported a sea level pressure of 988.1 mb and winds of 60 kt.

Typhoon Iris made landfall 30 nm north of Chancian (59755) on the Luichow Peninsula at 2100Z on the 19th. The cyclone dissipated rapidly as it crossed the peninsula. Fifteen hours later it had weakened to a 35 kt tropical storm and entered the Gulf of Tonkin. The final warning was issued at 0600Z on the 21st.

On the 18th, Iris had passed 90 nm south of Hong Kong, where 68 kt winds were observed. Hong Kong newspaper reports indicated that more than a dozen people were injured by flying debris. Also on the 18th, 50 nm east of Pratas and 50 nm north of the storm, the Chieh Lee, a 5000 ton Panamanian freighter, sank. According to newspaper reports, 13 crewmen were rescued while 4 were known dead and 11 others were missing.

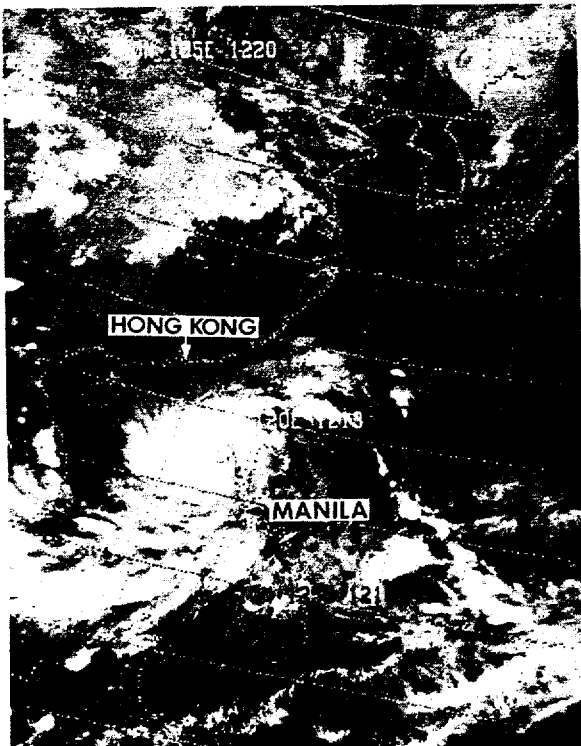


FIGURE 4-40. Inverted infrared photograph of Iris at 40 kt 195 nm northwest of Manila, 15 September 1976, 1212Z. (NOAA-4 Imagery)

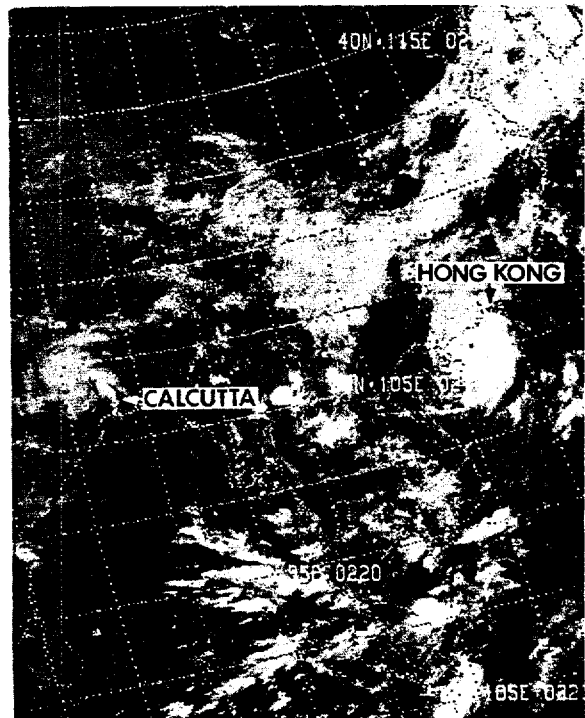


FIGURE 4-41. Typhoon Iris (right) at 75 kt peak intensity 110 nm southwest of Hong Kong, 19 September 1976, 0216Z. Tropical Cyclone 23-76 is seen inland over India. (NOAA-5 Imagery)